

Application No. 09/742,268

Attorney Docket No. 1999P03882US

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for allowing a patient, suffering from a neurological disease and receiving medication for said disease, to self-monitor the patient's actual state, comprising the steps of:

providing a computer at a location readily accessible to a patient substantially on a daily basis for acquiring information from a patient;

~~conducting an interactive procedure between said patient and said computer to acquire~~ acquiring information, via an interactive procedure, in said computer from a patient wherein the acquired information is selected from the a group consisting of information characterizing a motor function of the patient, information characterizing a verbal communication ability of the patient, and information characterizing cognitive abilities of the patient;

providing an expert system accessible by the computer;

~~making an expert system accessible by said computer and supplying said information from said computer~~ providing said acquired patient information to said expert system and, in said expert system, for processing thereby, and determining, from the acquired information, at least one quantified indicator describing an actual the state of the patient suffering from a in the context of the patient's neurological disease which is treated with medication; and

providing said computer with an output device and making said quantified indicator available to the patient via said output device.

2. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said information comprises information characterizing a motor function of said patient, and wherein the step of ~~conducting an interactive procedure~~ acquiring information comprises conducting software-controlled motor function exercises for ~~identifying~~ quantifying at least one of neutral, negative and positive effects of said medication on said patient's state, and quantifying said negative and positive effects for processing by said expert system for producing use in determining said quantified indicator.

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3. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said information is information characterizing a verbal communication ability of said patient, and wherein ~~conducting an interactive procedure~~ the step of acquiring information comprises acoustically acquiring speech from said patient and assessing said speech with a speech assessment system ~~in said computer containing~~ having speech recognition algorithms and a phonetic data bank to obtain an information value quantifying at least one of neutral, negative and positive effects of said medication on said speech, and supplying said information value to said expert system for processing by said expert system for ~~producing use in~~ determining said quantified indicator.

4. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said information is information characterizing cognitive abilities of the patient, and wherein ~~conducting an interactive procedure~~ the step of acquiring information comprises generating questions ~~by said computer and~~ requiring a response from said patient to the respective questions and, from said responses, generating an information value quantifying at least one of neutral, negative and positive effects of said medication on said cognitive abilities of the patient, and supplying said information value to said expert system for processing ~~in said expert system to produce~~ for use in determining said quantified indicator.

5. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 4 comprising the step of acoustically entering said responses from said patient into said computer.

6. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 4 comprising the step of manually entering said responses from said patient into said computer.

7. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 comprising the step of entering additional information into ~~said computer in said interactive procedure~~ characterizing a subjective state of health of said patient ~~during said step of acquiring information~~.

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8. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the step of obtaining a quantified information value representing said information acquired in said ~~interactive procedure~~, step of acquiring and storing, after each interactive procedure, as stored information with respect to time, at least one of said quantified indicator, said acquired information and said quantified information value ~~after each interactive procedure~~.

9. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 8 comprising providing said stored information to said expert system, ~~and for producing in said expert system~~ an evaluation regarding dosage of said medication based on said stored information and making said evaluation available to the patient at said output device.

10. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 9 wherein said stored information includes said quantified indicator, and wherein said expert system produces said evaluation from ~~an~~ a chronological analysis of a curve relative to time of the respective quantified indicators obtained after each interactive procedure.

11. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 9 further comprising the step of making said the chronological curve available to said patient as a displayed curve at said output device.

12. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 9 further comprising the step of storing said produced evaluation in a memory accessible by said computer.

13. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 10 further comprising the step of establishing communication between said computer and a physician located remote from said computer, and informing said physician of at

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least one of said quantified indicator, and said evaluation and said information, as
transmitted information.

14. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 13 further
comprising the step of transmitting therapy instructions from said physician to said
computer based on an examination of said transmitted information, and making
said therapy instructions available to the patient at said output device.

15. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said step
of determining further comprises ~~comprising~~ formulating said quantified indicator
as a number.

16. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said step
of determining further comprises ~~comprising~~ formulating said quantified indicator
as a statement.

17. (Currently Amended) A system for allowing a patient suffering from a
neurological disease and receiving medication for treating said disease, to self-
monitor a state of the patient, comprising:

a computer readily accessible by the patient disposed at a location at which
said patient is present substantially on a daily basis;

at least one software program installed in said computer ~~for operating said~~
~~computer~~ able to execute an interactive procedure with said patient to obtain
information selected from the group consisting of information characterizing a
motor function of the patient, information characterizing verbal communication
abilities of the patient, and information characterizing cognitive abilities of the
patient;

an input unit connected to said computer ~~with which~~ for use by said patient
~~interacts during said interactive procedure to supply inputs to said computer from~~
~~which~~ for acquiring said information ~~is required~~;

an expert system accessible by said computer, ~~to which~~ able to receive said
information ~~is supplied, said expert system and produce~~ producing a quantified

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indicator from said information and making said quantified indicator available to
said computer; and

an output unit connected to said computer ~~at which~~ for providing said
quantified indicator ~~is made available~~ to the patient.

18. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 17 wherein said
information is information characterizing a motor function of the patient, and
wherein said input unit is a manually operated input unit, and wherein said
software program operates said computer to execute motor function test exercises
and produces a quantified information value quantifying at least one of neutral,
negative and positive effects of said medication on said motor function and makes
said quantified information value available to said expert system.

19. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 17 wherein said information is
information characterizing verbal communication abilities of the patient, and
wherein said input unit is an acoustical input unit, and wherein said software
program assesses speech made by said patient into said input unit using speech
algorithms and a phonetic data bank, and produces a quantified information value
representing said verbal communication abilities, and makes said quantified
information value available to said expert system.

20. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 17 wherein said
information is information characterizing cognitive abilities of the patient and
wherein said software operates said computer to present questions to said patient
and to receive responses from said patient, and produces a quantified information
value from said responses quantifying at least one of neutral, negative and positive
effects of said medication on said cognitive abilities, and makes said quantified
information value available to said expert system.

21. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 17 comprising a further
software program for operating said computer to obtain additional information
from said patient characterizing a subjective state of health of said patient.

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22. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 17 wherein said software program in each interactive procedure produces a quantified information value from said information, and further comprising a memory accessible by said computer and by said expert system for storing, as stored information relative to time, at least one of said quantified indicator, said information and said quantified information value after each interactive procedure.

23. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 22 wherein said expert system produces an evaluation from said stored information with regard to a dosage of said medication.

24. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 23 wherein said stored information includes said quantified indicator, and wherein said expert system produces said evaluation by analyzing a chronological curve of respective quantified indicators obtained from successive interactive procedures.

25. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 24 wherein said computer ~~displays~~ provides said chronological curve to said output device as a displayed curve ~~at said output device~~.

26. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 23 further comprising a transmission link from said computer to an external computer located remotely from said computer for transmitting at least one of said evaluation and said quantified indicator to said external computer.

27. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 17 wherein said software operates said computer to formulate said quantified indicator as a number.

28. (Original) A system as claimed in claim 17 wherein said software operates said computer to formulate said quantified indicator as a statement.